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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Igor V. GOUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of the fifty-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 7 and 11 October 1996. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.3 and 6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/655/Add.2) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/440).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.4

4. At the 6th meeting, on 11 October, the representative of Mexico introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/51/L.4), which had been submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.4 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1056 (1996) of 29 May 1996, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 November 1996,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission, and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was decision 50/446 C of 17 September 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from the one applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

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1/ A/50/655/Add.2.

2/ A/51/440.

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Mission on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 September 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 49,014,872 United States dollars, representing 20 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 30 September 1996, notes that some 18 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, particularly as regards the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission promptly and in full;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 2/

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 27,962,500 dollars gross (25,480,500 dollars net), already authorized and assessed under the terms of General Assembly resolution 49/247 of 20 July 1995, for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 February to 30 June 1996;

8. Decides also to appropriate the amount of 13,292,500 dollars gross (12,555,000 dollars net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996, inclusive of the amount of 526,835 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, and taking into account the amount of 7,816,100 dollars gross (6,846,350 dollars net) already authorized and assessed for the period from 1 July to 30 September 1996 by the Assembly in its decision 50/446 B of 7 June 1996, and the amount of 2,600,000 dollars gross (2,500,000 dollars net) already authorized for the period from 1 to 31 October 1996 by the Assembly in its decision 50/446 C of 17 September 1996;

9. Decides further, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 7,816,100 dollars gross (6,846,350 dollars net) already apportioned

under the terms of decision 50/446 B, to apportion the additional amount of 5,476,400 dollars gross (5,708,650 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1996, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

10. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, shall take into consideration the decrease in their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 232,250 dollars for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996;

11. Decides also to appropriate the amount of 18,609,500 dollars gross (17,577,000 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 737,565 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be assessed on Member States at a monthly rate not to exceed 2,658,500 dollars gross (2,511,000 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 30 November 1996;

12. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,032,500 dollars approved for the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 June 1997;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

14. Decides to keep the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" under review during its fifty-first session.